

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 2-4 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. New claims 6-8 have been added.

Claims 1 and 5-8 are therefore presently pending in the case.

### **II. Support for the Amendment to the Specification and the Amended and Newly Added Claims**

The specification has been amended to include reference to the co-pending U.S. Application.

Claim 1 has been amended to improve its clarity, and to remove reference to the sequence allowed in co-pending U.S. Application Number 09/875,811. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claim 5 has been amended to include additional amino acid sequences disclosed in the specification as originally filed. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, with particular support being found in claim 1.

Claims 6-8 have been added to specifically claim additional aspects of the invention.

Claims 6 and 7 have been added to specifically recite recombinant expression vectors comprising isolated nucleic acid molecules of the present invention. These claims find support throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at page 14, lines 5-12.

Claim 8 has been added to specifically recite host cells comprising the recombinant expression vectors of claim 6. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 14, lines 12-18.

It will be understood that no new matter is included within the amended specification or the amended or newly added claims.

### **III. Conclusion**

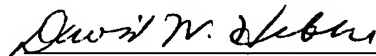
Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or believe that certain

amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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